

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 have been cancelled, claim 5 having been previously cancelled. New claims 8-12 have been added. New claims were added to avoid excessive underlining and strike outs.

In the September 4, 2008 office action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Johnson, Weinreich and DeVries. Independent claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Johnson and Weinreich and DeVries and further in view of Official Notice. Independent claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Chuang.

With respect to prior claim 7, the Examiner noted that Johnson fails to disclose the limitation of using “(N + 1) wirings for the array driving system.” To address this, the Examiner relied upon Chuang as disclosing “a system with wiring and further wherein the similar concept of requiring reduced wirings for the array driving system.” Applicants respectfully point out that the reduced wiring of Chuang results from his use of wireless signal transmission. Referring to Fig. 2 of Chuang, inside conductor 37 and outside conductor 38 carry 110 or 220 VAC. The AD [AD/DC] adapter 21 converts such voltage to, for example, 5 or 12VDC. Chuang, 2:12-16. The DC power is used to power the reception circuit 22 and the amplifier 23 which drives the speaker 10. Chuang, 2:16-19. The reception circuit can receive external signals in wired or cordless style. Chuang, 2:16-19. In the embodiment shown, the signal transmission technique is “Bluetooth.” Chuang, 2:43-45. A wired style of signal transmission for the reception circuit is not illustrated in Chuang. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 7 (which specifies a N driving circuit/N speaker wiring

configuration "so that $N + 1$ wirings are utilized in the speaker array system") distinguishes over the art of record.

Furthermore, while Johnson deals with a stereo ($N = 2$) speaker system and Weinreich generally discloses use of phase delay in a speaker array system, it is respectfully submitted that the references, alone or in combination, do not meet the system of claim 8, wherein " N [is] an integer equal to or greater than 4" and wherein "in each pair of speakers," the driving circuits are wired to the speakers to provide first and second driving signals, with the second driving signal "having an inverse phase and a predetermined delay relative to the first driving signal," thus causing output current signals of the speakers to be combined "so that a magnitude of a sum of the first current signal and the second current signal is determined by a magnitude of the predetermined delay," as specified in new independent claim 8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 8 distinguishes over the cited references for such additional reasons.

Dependent claims 9-12 all directly depend from claim 8. Thus, claims 9-12 are believed to distinguish over the cited art for the same reasons given above with respect to independent claim 8.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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